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IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

Week of Jan 09, 2006

CHINA

Hong Kong reports first case of Dengue for 2006

The Hong Kong Center for Health Protection (CHP) has confirmed the first imported case of dengue fever in Hong Kong this year. The patient is a 45-year-old man who developed symptoms of a fever, headache, muscle and joint pain on December 22. The patient may have contracted the virus during a visit to the mainland and Indonesia from December 8 to 22. The CHP has encouraged people to protect themselves from the virus and to take action to prevent mosquito breeding. The dengue virus is transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. Symptoms of dengue fever include a sudden onset of a high fever, severe headache, as well as joint and muscle pain. Other symptoms include nausea, vomiting, and a rash, which appears several days after the onset of a fever. Most dengue infections result in relatively mild illness, but some can progress to dengue hemorrhagic fever, which is a severe and often fatal complication of dengue.

Source:

· Dengue fever case confirmed, Jan 06, 2006, <http://www.news.gov.hk/en/category/healthandcommunity/060106/html/060106en05007.htm>

Human bird flu cases in China rises to eight

Officials in China announced the country's eighth confirmed human case of H5N1 bird flu, in a 6-year-old boy from the southern province of Hunan. The boy developed symptoms of fever and pneumonia on December 24 and is presently hospitalized in stable condition. Initial investigation into the case, points to the recent death of family poultry as the likely source of exposure, though there have been no official reports of poultry outbreaks in the area. This is the second confirmed human case from Hunan Province. The earlier Hunan case, which was one of the first two reported in China in mid November 2005, lived about 186 miles (300 km) away from the present case. In addition to Hunan, the provinces and regions reporting human cases of H5N1 infection

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include Anhui, Guangxi, Liaoning, Jiangxi, and Fujian. Meanwhile, on Wednesday (January 11), Chinese authorities reported that they had culled 42,000 quails in the southern province of Guizhou, after discovering that over the past week, there had been 16,000 bird deaths from the H5N1 virus. Chinese authorities also confirmed that two human bird flu cases, previously announced on December 7 in a 10-year-old girl from the Guangxi region, and a 35-year-old man from Jiangxi Province, announced on December 16, have subsequently died. Of the eight confirmed cases in China, five have now died. The H5N1 bird flu virus has killed nearly 80 people throughout Asia since 2003, and has now spread outside the region with an ongoing outbreak in Turkey.

Source:

- Human bird flu cases rise to 8 in China, Jan 10, 2006, <http://www.sciencedaily.com/upi/?feed=TopNews&article=UPI-1-20060109-23382600-bc-china-8birdflu.xml>
- Avian Influenza- Situation in China, Jan 10, 2006, http://www.who.int/csr/don/2006_01_10/en/index.html
- WHO Issues New Warning on Possible Flu Pandemic as Human Death Toll Creeps Up, Jan 11, 2006, <http://www.voanews.com/english/2006-01-11-voa40.cfm>

Three new cases of typhoid fever reported in Hong Kong

According to Hong Kong's Center for Health Protection, three more reports of cases of typhoid fever have been reported, bringing to 15 the total number since November 25, 2005. Only one of these fifteen cases was imported, while 10 of the locally acquired cases involved residents from Yuen Long district. These most recent three cases were identified in residents from Tsing Yi, Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long districts. All three victims became ill in late December 2005 with symptoms of fever, abdominal pain and vomiting. Early investigations find that seven of the recent cases from Yuen Long may be from the same source. There were 36 cases of typhoid fever in 2005, 53 in 2004, 49 in 2003, 67 in 2002 and 67 in 2001. Typhoid fever is a life-threatening illness caused by the bacterium Salmonella Typhi (S. Typhi). Persons with typhoid fever carry the bacteria in their bloodstream and intestinal tract. One can contract typhoid fever if they have consumed food or beverages that have been handled by a person who is shedding S. Typhi or if sewage contaminated with S. Typhi gets into a water supply.

Source:

- 3 more typhoid fever cases reported, Jan 04, 2006, <http://www.news.gov.hk/en/category/healthandcommunity/060104/html/060104en05015.htm>
- Yuen Long typhoid cases may be related, Dec 24, 2005, <http://www.news.gov.hk/en/category/healthandcommunity/051224/html/051224en05005.htm>

INDIA

Three children die from measles-like illness in southern Pulwama district of Indian-controlled Kashmir (IcK)

According to local officials, at least three children died on Thursday (January 12) and more than 20 others have become seriously ill, due to the outbreak of a measles-like disease in the village of Hagerwani Kaller, located about 25 miles (40 km) from Pulwama town in Indian-controlled Kashmir (IcK). According to local Pulwama officials, 19 children suffering from the illness have been shifted to a special ward of G B Pant

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Children Hospital. Initial investigations from local health officials have shown that the children developed rashes similar to those caused by measles. However, tests must be conducted to determine the cause of the outbreak.

Source:

· Kashmir-Children Srinagar, Jan 12, 2006, http://www.outlookindia.com/pti_news.asp?id=348101

Mysterious disease reported in village in Karnataka state, India

Doctors have not yet discovered the cause of an illness that has been spreading in Siddammanahalli village in the Bellary district of southern Karnataka state in India. According to reports, the symptoms of the illness are similar to rheumatic arthritis. An estimated 12 new cases of the illness have been reported daily. A team of doctors and students from Taranath Ayurvedic College, led by Dr Shankar Gouda, are testing the patients to determine the cause of the illness. Siddammanahalli village has a population of 10,000 and is surrounded by 4,000 acres (1619 hectares) of irrigated land.

Source:

· A mysterious disease plagues Siddammanahalli, Jan 10, 2006, <http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IEK20060109231522&Page=K&Title=Southern+News++Karnataka&Topic=0>

INDONESIA

Indonesia's 12th bird flu death confirmed

On Friday (January 13), the World Health Organization's (WHO) Hong Kong lab confirmed Indonesia's finding that a 29-year-old woman from Jakarta tested positive for the H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus. Jakarta announced its findings on Wednesday (January 11), the same day the woman died from the virus. Local health officials said the woman may have contracted the virus through contact with her neighbor's dead chickens. This latest confirmation from the WHO brings the official number of Indonesian human H5N1 infections to 17 and deaths to 12. The Hong Kong lab is also conducting tests to confirm Indonesian results, of a 39-year-old Indonesian man, who died earlier this month from the H5N1 subtype of the bird flu virus.

Source:

· Human Avian Influenza, Indonesia up to 10 January 2006., Jan 12, 2006, http://www.asean-disease-surveillance.net/ASNNews_Detail.asp?ID=3642
· Indonesia's 12th bird flu death confirmed, Jan 13, 2006, <http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060113/wl.asia.afp.healthfluindonesia.060113160810>

Dengue update Bantul regency in Java, Indonesia

Sixty-one people contracted dengue fever in December 2005, in Bantul regency, Yogyakarta on the island of Java in Indonesia. This number for December represents an increase from the 22 cases recorded in October 2005 and 20 cases recorded in November 2005. According to Gandung Bambang Hermanto, chief of the surveillance section of the Bantul health office, the number of cases is expected to increase during the rainy season, which runs from November to March. The wet conditions provided by

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the rain creates ideal breeding grounds for *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the carrier of dengue virus. In order to prevent the spread of the disease, the government has distributed larvicidal powder in order to help destroy mosquito larvae. Including the most recent cases, the number of recorded cases of dengue virus in Bantul totaled 195 in 2005. Of these 195 cases, four people died.

Source:

· DENGUE/DHF UPDATE 2006 (01): Indonesia, Jan 04, 2006, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:7672895062067769990::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,31586

JAPAN

Up to 77 people in Japan may be infected with mild H5N2 subtype of bird flu virus

According to a Japanese government report released Tuesday (January 10), a total of 77 people in Japan, mostly chicken farm workers from the areas of Saitama and Ibaraki, may have been infected with the H5N2 subtype of avian influenza. The Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry and the National Institute of Infectious Diseases jointly tested 353 people comprising employees of 34 chicken farms in Ibaraki and Saitama prefectures that were earlier hit by the H5N2 and others who may have been in contact with infected poultry. In the last year, there have been several outbreaks of bird flu among poultry flocks in Ibaraki. Bird flu infection was first suspected in Japan in April 2004 at a chicken farm in Kyoto Prefecture, which was hit by the H5N1 subtype. There was one human case of infection and 4 possible infections but none of the people died. Since the virus was first detected, Japan has culled hundreds of thousands of birds to prevent its spread.

Source:

· Mild bird flu strikes at least 77 Japanese, Jan 10, 2006, <http://mdn.mainichi-msn.co.jp/national/news/20060110p2a00m0na025000c.html>
· Govt says 77 people suspected of past bird flu infections, Jan 10, 2006, <http://home.kyodo.co.jp/modules/fstStory/index.php?storyid=223487>

NEW ZEALAND

Hepatitis A outbreak in Christchurch and Canterbury, New Zealand

Three new cases of Hepatitis A were reported on Tuesday (January 10) in the city of Christchurch located on the east coast of South Island, New Zealand, bringing the total number of Hepatitis A cases in the city to ten. Usually, there are only two to three cases of the viral illness each year in Canterbury and less than 100 nationwide. Health officials suspect raw foods as a cause of the outbreak, though preliminary investigations have shown no indication of a common source of the disease. Hepatitis A is a virus that affects the liver. It is spread either by contaminated food or directly from person to person because of poor sanitation. Early symptoms include abdominal discomfort, nausea, fever, and jaundice that develops in the later stages.

Source:

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- Worry over Hep A outbreak in Chch, Jan 10, 2006, <http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/411368/647603>
- Hepatitis 'A' Cases In Christchurch, Jan 09, 2006, <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/GE0601/S00009.htm>

PHILIPPINES

Diarrhea outbreak kills 32 in Palawan, Philippines

According to Dr. Anthony Golez, deputy administrator of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), thirty-two people have died from a diarrhea outbreak in Palawan. Overall, more than 214 cases have been reported in the 22 barangays in the three southern towns of Palawan; Bataraza, Española, and Rizal. Bataraza has been the worst affected with 168 cases. In response to the diarrhea outbreak, the Department of Health and the Provincial Health Office dispatched health teams to provide medical assistance. According to Golez, the cause of the outbreak is a lack of potable water and poor sanitation.

Source:

- Health teams respond to diarrhea outbreak in Palawan; 214 cases reported, Jan 09, 2006, <http://www.pia.gov.ph/news.asp?fi=p060109.htm&no=28>
- Diarrhea toll: 32 dead!, Jan 12, 2006, http://www.asean-disease-surveillance.net/ASNNews_Detail.asp?ID=3640

Other World News

TURKEY

Local officials report human cases of bird flu now at 18

On Thursday (January 12), the Turkish Health Ministry reported two new cases of people infected with the H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus, bringing the total number of humans infected in Turkey to 18. The victims were from Sanliurfa Province, near the southern border with Syria, and Siirt Province, which is adjacent to Van in the eastern part of the country. Both victims had been in contact with infected birds, officials said. The Health Ministry also reported tests have shown that the H5N1 virus was in the lungs of a third Turkish child who died last week (January 6), bringing the death toll from the H5N1 virus in Turkey to three. To help stem the spread of the virus, Turkish authorities have culled more than 350,000 birds in the past two weeks, in addition to mounting a public information campaign and maintaining three-kilometer (two-mile) quarantine zones around infected areas. To date, the H5N1 strain of bird flu has been found in poultry in 19 of Turkey's 81 provinces. At least another 70 people across the country are suspected of having the bird flu and are undergoing tests. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the H5N1 strain of the bird flu has claimed at least 78 lives so far: five in China, four in Cambodia, 11 in Indonesia, 14 in Thailand, two in Turkey and 42 in Vietnam.

Source:

- Update 6: Turkey Scrambles to Contain Flu Outbreak, Jan 10, 2006, <http://www.forbes.com/business/energy/feeds/ap/2006/01/10/ap2441277.html>
- Bird flu disease spreads in Turkey, Jan 10, 2006, <http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/13588315.htm>

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- Turkey, China Find New Human Bird Flu Cases as Outbreaks Spread, Jan 10, 2006, <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000085&sid=a6qU8d4ua.PI&refer=europe>
- Turkey confirms 14 cases of bird flu, Jan 10, 2006, <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/20060110/FLU10/TPHealth/>
- Avian influenza – situation in Turkey - update 4, Jan 13, 2006, http://www.asean-disease-surveillance.net/ASNNews_Detail.asp?ID=3644

WORLD

UN Urges US\$1.5 billion in donor pledges to combat bird flu

David Nabarro, the UN coordinator on avian and human influenza, urged donors on Thursday (January 12) to give US\$1.5 billion to fight bird flu at a two-day meeting of Asian countries and international organizations in Tokyo, Japan to discuss the virus. Nabarro said he hoped the funds would be pledged at an international donors conference to be held in Beijing, China, on January 17-18. Nabarro's remarks come as the World Health Organization (WHO) warned Wednesday (January 11) that an outbreak of the H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus that is sweeping across Turkey could become entrenched and spread into nearby countries

Source:

- Asia meets to discuss possible bird flu pandemic, Jan 12, 2006, http://www.asean-disease-surveillance.net/ASNNews_Detail.asp?ID=3643
- <http://>

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